

1904, art. 41, sec. 1. 1888, art. 41, sec. 1. 1860, art. 42, sec. 1. 1853, ch. 131, sec. 1. 1884, ch. 78.

1. The great seal of the State of Maryland shall be in the custody of the secretary of the state, but the governor shall have the control and use thereof whenever necessary for any purpose provided for by the constitution and laws or when needed to authenticate communications between this State and the United States, the States and territories thereof, and foreign States; in all which cases the great seal shall be used; and the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of delegates, respectively, shall have unrestricted access to and use of the great seal, for the purpose of affixing the same to bills which shall have passed the general assembly as required by the constitution, preparatory to presenting the same to the governor for his approval; every bill, when passed by the general assembly, shall be returned to the house in which the same originated, and shall, as soon thereafter as practicable, be sealed with the great seal by the secretary of the senate or chief clerk of the house of delegates, as the case may be, and presented to the governor for his approval; and in his presence such clerical officer having custody of the same shall make on the back of every such bill a memorandum in writing of the day and hour when the same was presented to the governor for his approval; and such officer so presenting the same shall sign his name to such memorandum, and shall make a corresponding entry upon the journal of the house in which the same originated; in case of the sickness or necessary absence of the governor from the seat of government of the State, during the session of the general assembly, it shall be lawful for the governor to designate some person or persons to act for him in receiving bills presented for his approval; which designation shall be in writing addressed to the presiding officers of the two houses of the general assembly, respectively, and the same, when so received, shall be entered at length upon the journal of each house; all bills passed by the general assembly and sealed with the great seal which shall be presented as aforesaid to the person or persons so designated by the governor, and during the period for which he or they were so designated, shall be held and considered as presented to the governor for his approval within the meaning of the constitution of the State.

The record of the official acts of the executive department kept by the secretary of state may be used to show that a bill endorsed as having been presented to the governor on a certain day, was presented on a different day. Where a bill is passed and sealed as directed, it may be presented to the governor and signed after the close of the session of the legislature, provided the governor signs within six days from the time the bill is presented. *Lankford v. Somerset County*, 73 Md. 105.

The act of 1853, ch. 131, places the great seal in the custody of the governor, who alone can authorize its use, and he is required to verify by his signature every document to which it may be affixed. The secretary of state has no control over the great seal. *Harwood v. Marshall*, 9 Md. 102.

If a bill is presented to the governor without the great seal, he may refuse to consider it. *Hamilton v. State*, 61 Md. 27.

*Ibid.* sec. 2. 1888, art. 41, sec. 2. 1860, art. 42, sec. 2. 1853, ch. 131, sec. 2.

2. The governor shall not affix the great seal to any document without accompanying it with his signature; nor shall he permit any paper